commenced production between 1-1-1982 to 31st March, 1986 and on or after 1-4-1986 respectively. Levy obligation of such units had been reduced to 20 per cent of production and 15 per cent of production respectively.

(vi) Excise duty on cement has been reduced from Rs. 225 per tonne to Rs. 205 per tonne w.e.f. 1-3-1988.

Dissolution of M/s. Trades and services Bombay

531. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the company partnership firm known as M/s. Trades and Services, Bombay, was dissolved in early 1985;

(b) whether this fact of dissolution was not intimated to Government nor even the shareholdings of the Company were transferred to any other company for about a period of more than six months; whether the requisite declaration in the prescribed form as required under Section 1987 (c) (1) and (2) was made in time; and

(c) if not, what action has been taken against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) A firm by the name of Trades and Services was dissolved by a Dissolution Deed dated 2-5-1985.

(b) and (c) The fact of dissolution of a partnership firm is not required to be intimated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. Prosecution has been filed against the partners of the firm M/s. Trades and Services for non-filing of requisite declaration under Section 187C(2) of the Companies Act in respect of shares of M/s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd.

Categorisation of paracetamol drugs

532. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Paracetamol formulations have been categorised as 'anti-malarial drug' in the Drugs Price Control Order, 1987; if so, on what basis; and

(b) whether the All India Medical Association has protested against the wrong categorisation of Paracetamol as an anti-malarial drug; if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Paracetamol was included in the First Schedule to DPCO, 1987 on the basis of the recommendation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) The representation made by the Indian Medical Association before the Kelkar Committee regarding wrong categorisation of drugs is being looked into by the Committee.

Arrears of Telephone Bills

533. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the arrears of telephone bills as on December 31, 1987 towards each of the ex-MPs, former Ministers, ex-Governors, and also the political parties which are recognised by the Election Commission at the Central/State levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of rural telecommunication Corporation

534. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions for setting up a separate

Rural Telecommunication Corporation for promoting economic development in the villages and to cross-subsidise rural telecommunication service with urban institutional services; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present with the Department.

(b) Does not arise.

Private participation in telecommunication sector

535. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has pleaded for private participation in the telecom. sector; and

(b) if so, what is the response of Government to the suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. Suggestions for participation by the private sector in telecommunications, have been received from FICCI.

(b) In the field of telecommunications, the Government are following a liberal policy.

The equipment, namely, telephone instruments, PABXs, teleprinters, FAX, data terminals and modems, store and forward message switches, etc. whose compatibility has been approved by the Department can be owned and operated by the subscribers.

Private sector participation in the manufacture of telecommunication equipment has been allowed according to the Industrial Policy Resolution 1956 and guidelines issued by the Department of Electronics.

Aromatic Project at Manali

536. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the components of Aromatics Project at Manali;

(b) what is the estimated investment;

(c) what will be the production capacity of each unit;

(d) by when the whole project is expected to go into production; and

(e) how much foreign exchange is expected to be saved annually after the project goes into production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (e) The components of aromatics project at Manali are basic aromatics such as Benzene, Xylene and Fibre intermediate—purified Terepthalic Acid. The project is estimated to cost about Rs. 840.00 crores. The approved capacity of the products is: (i) Orthoxylene—30000 TPA, (ii) Benzene—3000 TPA, (iii) Purified Terepthalic Acid—1,50,000 TPA. The project is expected to take about four years for implementation after the necessary approvals. The estimated foreign exchange to be saved annually after production commences from this project will be about Rs. 110.00 crores.

Pending applications for telephone connections

537. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of applications for telephone connections pending at present in different States; and

(b) by what time a telephone connection is likely to be granted on demand in the country?